

And there is a desire on the part of many middle-aged and older adults for self-improvement.

A study by Louis Harris Associates for the National Council on the Aging found that one of every 10 persons older than 65 had less than five years formal education.

More than one-third of those older than 40 and 15 percent of those older than 65 said they would like to learn some new skills or participate in job training to change occupations, the study found.

THE MONDALE BILL

94th Congress
1st Session
S.2497

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
October 8 (legislative day, September 11), 1975
Mr. Mondale introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to
the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to encourage the establishment of lifetime learning programs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Lifetime Learning Act."

Sec. 2 (a) Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 is amended by inserting "Part A—Community Service and Continuing Programs" immediately before the section heading of section 101, by striking out "this title" whenever it appears in sections 101 through 113 and inserting in lieu thereof "this part," and by adding at the end of such title the following new part:

"Part B—Lifetime Learning

"Statement of Finding and Purpose

"Sec. 151. (a) The Congress recognizes—

"(1) the impact of accelerating social and technological change on the duration and quality of life,

"(2) the increasing opportunities for continued personal, vocational, and professional development, and

"(3) the growing interest of governmental agencies, educational institutions, labor, business, and industry to provide formal and informal education to assist individuals to meet the changing demands of life.

"(b) It is the purpose of this part to establish an office of lifetime learning programs in the Office Of Education in order to encourage the initiation and expansion of such programs.

"Appropriations Authorized

"Sec. 152. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this part there are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for the fiscal year 1976, \$2,500,000 for the period beginning July 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1976, \$20,000,000 for the fiscal year 1977 and for each of the four succeeding fiscal years.

"Definition of Lifetime Learning Program

"Sec. 153. For the purpose of this part 'lifetime learning' means any program, project, activity, or service designed to meet the changing educational needs of Americans throughout their lives, and includes, but is not limited to, adult basic education, postsecondary education, continuing education, or

remedial education special educational programs for groups or for individuals with special needs, job training programs, and preretirement and post retirement training, and education programs for the elderly.

"Office of Lifetime Learning

"Sec. 154. The Commissioner shall establish within the Office of Education an Office of Lifetime Learning to be administered by a Director appointed by the President.

"Lifetime Learning Program

"Sec. 155 (a) The Commissioner, through the Office of Lifetime Learning, is authorized to—

"(1) identify, collect, and make available to the public information regarding existing lifetime learning programs carried out or assisted by any department or agency of the Federal Government,

"(2) evaluate existing domestic and foreign lifetime learning programs in order to determine whether such programs can be used for a national lifetime learning program model,

"(3) conduct a study of existing barriers to lifetime learning and how such barriers may be eliminated,

"(4) make grants to and enter into contracts with public agencies and nonprofit private organizations for projects to establish, assist, or expand lifetime learning programs, including—

"(A) research and development activities,

"(B) support for training teachers to conduct lifetime learning programs,

"(C) development of curriculums appropriate to the needs of any such program,

"(D) conversion of facilities to serve adult participants in any such program,

"(E) development of techniques for guidance and counseling of adult participants in any such program,

"(F) development and dissemination of media materials appropriate to adult participants in any such program, and

"(G) assessment of the role of gerontology in related fields to identify educational needs and goals of elderly participants in any such program.

"(b) The Commissioner is authorized and directed after each fiscal year to prepare and submit to the President and to the Congress a report setting forth the programs assisted under this part, together with such recommendations as he deems appropriate. The Commissioner shall make the report required by this subsection available to all interested groups and individuals.

"Lifetime Learning Report

"Sec. 156. The Commissioner shall prepare and submit to the Congress not later than January 1, 1979, a report to be known as the Lifetime Learning Report, containing a summary of activities and accomplishments under this part during the period prior to the fiscal year 1979, including the number and nature of grants made and contracts entered into pursuant to clause 4 of section 155 (a), together with such recommendations for the development of and assistance to a national lifetime learning program model, including recommendations for legislation, as he deems necessary and appropriate. The report required by this section shall also include information with respect to the status of lifetime learning in the United States, the number and types of lifetime learning programs being carried out, and the needs of Americans for lifetime learning programs."

(b) The title of title I of such Act is amended to read as follows:

"Title I - Community Service Continuing
Education and Lifetime Learning Programs

THE MONDALE BILL AS REVISED

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to encourage the establishment of lifetime learning program, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Lifetime Learning Act."

SEC. 2. (a) Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 is amended by inserting "Part A-Community Service and Continuing Education Programs" immediately before the section heading 101, by striking out "this title" whenever it appears in sections 101 through 113 and inserting in lieu thereof "this part" and by adding at the end of such title the following new part:

"PART B-LIFETIME LEARNING STATEMENT OF FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

"SEC. 151. (a) The Congress recognizes—

"(1) The impact of accelerating social and technological change on the duration and quality of life,

"(2) The needs of people for lifetime learning to enable them to adjust to social, technological, political, and economic changes.

"(3) The role of lifetime education in developing the potentials of all citizens

"(4) The importance of developing the potentials of people as a fundamental approach to aid in the solution of our nation's social and economic problems and in enhancing the quality of democratic life.

"(5) That learning takes place through formal and informal instruction, through educational programs conducted by educational and other types of institutions, and through self directed study and search for knowledge.

"(b) The Congress hereby declares it is in the national interest and is the national policy that opportunities for lifetime learning be available to all citizens without regard to previous education or training; and that consideration of sex, age, social and ethnic background, or economic circumstances shall not restrict access to all such opportunities to any individual. It is our policy to promote the continued vitality of our free society through lifetime learning opportunities in order to enable all people to improve their personal well-being as well as their participation in civic, cultural, economic and political life of the nation throughout their lives.

"(c) It is the purpose of this part to implement the lifetime learning policy through: (1) the elimination of barriers to the participation of people in lifetime learning experiences, (2) the identification of lifetime learning needs of the people, (3) the development of lifetime learning opportunities serving needs of the people and therefore, national interest, (4) and improved coordination and effectiveness of lifetime learning programs.

"DEFINITION OF LIFETIME LEARNING PROGRAM

"(d) 'Lifetime Learning' means the acquisition of knowledge and skills by people through formal or informal educational processes and any program, project, activity, or service designed to serve the changing educational needs of Americans throughout their lives. Lifetime learning includes, but is not limited to: adult basic education; early childhood and parent education; postsecondary education; continuing education; remedial education; self directed study; special educational programs for groups or for individuals with special needs; job training programs; and pre-retirement and post-retirement education and education programs for the elderly. Lifetime learning also includes educational activities to upgrade occupational and professional skills; to assist businesses, government agencies and others in the adoption and the use of innovations and research results useful in their operations; to assist in solving community and other public problems; to serve personal and family living needs; and to serve cultural interests.

"LIFETIME LEARNING PROGRAM

"SEC. 152. (a) The Secretary is authorized and directed to—

"(1) identify, collect, and make available to the public information regarding existing lifetime learning programs carried out and supported by any department or agency of the Federal Government.

"(2) Review and evaluate all existing programs of federal assistance to lifetime learning, including tax incentives, and to evaluate: (a) the extent to which each is achieving its objectives, (b) program and administrative features of each that contribute to serving the lifetime learning policy effectively and efficiently, (c) the needs for federal support to lifetime learning that are not served, (d) and procedures by which federal assistance to lifetime learning may be better applied and coordinated.

"(3) Review the lifetime learning opportunities provided through employers, unions, the press, radio and television, self-organized learning groups, secondary and postsecondary educational institutions and other public and private organizations to determine means by which the enhancement of their effectiveness and coordination may be facilitated.

"(4) evaluate existing foreign lifetime learning programs in order to determine the applicability of such programs in this country.

"(5) conduct a study of existing barriers to lifetime learning and how such barriers may be eliminated.

"(6) utilize the staff and facilities of the National Advisory Councils on educational programs established by this and other acts, the Office of Education, National Institute of Education, the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education, and other units of his department and to consult, coordinate with and use the facilities of other agencies that support lifetime learning programs in carrying out the purpose of this part.

"LIFETIME LEARNING REPORT

"(b) The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Congress not later than January 1, 1979 and annually thereafter, a report to be known as the Lifetime Learning Report, containing a summary of work conducted under this section and recommendations for the development of services in support of programs to implement the lifetime learning policy, including recommendations for legislation, as he deems necessary and appropriate. The report shall include information with respect to the status of lifetime learning programs being supported by the federal government and the needs of Americans for lifetime learning programs."

"SEC. 153 (a) The Secretary, through the office of lifetime learning, is authorized to make grants to and enter into contracts with public and private agencies and organizations for projects to establish, assist, expand or evaluate lifetime learning programs, including the development, testing and demonstration of: programs to serve unmet needs; new techniques of serving needs for lifetime learning; new systems for delivering and coordinating lifetime learning; and techniques for achieving joint and cooperative programs among educational institutions. This includes but is not limited to projects for:

"(1) research and development activities,

"(2) training and retraining people to become adult educators,

"(3) development of curriculums and delivery systems appropriate to the needs of any such program,

"(4) development of techniques and systems for guidance and counseling of adult participants in any such program, and for training and retraining of counselors,

"(5) development and dissemination of media materials appropriate to adult participants in any such program, and

"(6) assessment of the role of gerontology in related fields to identify educational needs and goals of elderly participants in any such program.

"OFFICE OF LIFETIME LEARNING

"(b) The Secretary of the H.E.W. shall establish within the Department of H.E.W. an Office of Lifetime Learning to be administered by a Director appointed by the President. The Office of Lifetime Learning shall administer the provisions of this part. The office also shall have responsibility within the executive branch for the development of projects and proposals to more fully achieve the purposes of this part, for fostering improved coordination of federal support to lifetime learning, and such other responsibilities as the Secretary may assign.

"(c) The Secretary is authorized and directed after each fiscal year to prepare and submit to the President and to the Congress a report setting forth the programs assisted under this part, together with recommendations as he deems appropriate. The Secretary shall make the report required by this subsection available to all interested groups and individuals.

"APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED

"SEC. 154. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this part there are authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year 1976, and for the period beginning July 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1976 \$1,000,000 for Sec. 152 and \$9,000,000 for Sec. 153, and for the fiscal year 1977 and for each of the succeeding fiscal years \$2,000,000 for Section 152, and \$18,000,000 for Sec. 153.

444. P. 2085.

(f) (1) Section 112 of the Act (as redesignated by subsection (e)) is amended—

(A) by striking out "the Commissioner, who shall be Chairman," in subsection (a); and

(B) by striking out "through June 30, 1976" in subsection (f) and inserting in lieu thereof "until the programs authorized by this part are terminated";

(2) The text of section 113 of the Act (as redesignated by subsection (e)) is amended to read as follows: "Nothing in this section shall modify any authority under the Act of May 9, 1914 (Smith-Lever Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 341-349)."

(g) Title I of the Act is further amended—

(1) by inserting before the section heading of section 101 the following:

"PART A—COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS";

(2) by striking out "this title" each time it appears in section 102 through section 112 of such title, and inserting in lieu thereof "this part"; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new part:

"PART B—LIFELONG LEARNING

"FINDINGS

"Sec. 131. The Congress finds that—

(1) accelerating social and technological change have had impact on the duration and quality of life;

(2) the American people need lifelong learning to enable them to adjust to social, technological, political and economic changes;

(3) lifelong learning has a role in developing the potential of all persons including improvement of their personal well-being, upgrading their workplace skills and preparing them to participate in the civic, cultural, and political life of the Nation;

(4) lifelong learning is important in meeting the needs of the growing number of older and retired persons;

(5) learning takes place through formal and informal instruction, through educational programs conducted by public and private educational and other institutions and organizations, through independent study, and through the efforts of business, industry, and labor;

(6) planning is necessary at the national, State, and local levels to assure effective use of existing resources in the light of changing characteristics and learning needs of the population;

(7) more effective use should be made of the resources of the Nation's educational institutions in order to assist the people of the United States in the solution of community problems in areas such as housing, poverty, government, recreation, employment, youth opportunities, transportation, health, and land use; and

(8) American society should have as a goal the availability of appropriate opportunities for lifelong learning for all its citizens without regard to restrictions of previous education or training, sex, age, handicapping condition, social or ethnic background, or economic circumstance.

"SCOPE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

"Sec. 132. Lifelong learning includes, but is not limited to, adult basic education, continuing education, independent study, agricultural education, business education and labor education, occupational education and job training programs, parent education, post-secondary education, pre-retirement and education for older and retired people, remedial education, special educational programs for groups or for individuals with special needs, and also educational activities designed to upgrade occupational and professional skills, to assist business, public agencies, and other organizations in the use or innovation and research results, and to serve family needs and personal development.

"LEARNING LEARNING ACTIVITIES

"Sec. 133. (a) The Assistant Secretary shall carry out, from funds appropriated pursuant to section 101 (b), a program of planning, assessing, and coordinating projects related to lifelong learning. In carrying out the provisions of this section, the Assistant Secretary shall—

(1) foster improved coordination of Federal support for lifelong learning programs;

(2) act as a clearinghouse for information regarding lifelong learning, including the identification, collection, and dissemination to educators and the public of existing and new information regarding lifelong learning programs which are or may be carried out and supported by any department or agency of the Federal Government;

(3) review present and proposed methods of financing and administering lifelong learning, to determine—

(A) the extent to which each promotes lifelong learning;

(B) program and administrative features of each that contribute to serving lifelong learning;

(C) the need for additional Federal support for lifelong learning; and

(D) procedures by which Federal assistance to lifelong learning may be better applied and coordinated to achieve the purposes of this title;

(4) review the lifelong learning opportunities provided through employers, unions, the media, libraries and museums, secondary schools and post-secondary educational institutions, and other public and private organizations to determine means by which the enhancement of their effectiveness and coordination may be facilitated;

(5) review existing major foreign lifelong learning programs and related programs in order to determine the applicability of such programs in this country;

(6) identify existing barriers to lifelong learning and evaluate programs designed to eliminate such barriers; and

(7) to the extent practicable, seek the advice and assistance of the agencies of the Education Division (including the Office of Education, the National Institute of Education, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, and the National Center for Education Statistics), other agencies of the Federal Government, public advisory groups (including the National Advisory Council on Extension and Continuing Education, Adult Education, Career Education, Community Education, and Vocational Education), Commissioners (including the National Commission

20 USC 1015a.

20 USC 1015b.
20 USC 1001.

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20 USC 1015.

20 USC 1002-1009.

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on Libraries and Information Sciences and the National Commission on Manpower Policy) State agencies, and such other persons or organizations as may be appropriate, in carrying out the Commissioner's responsibilities, and make maximum use of information and studies already available.

The review required by clause (3) of this subsection shall include—

- “(1) a comparative assessment of domestic and foreign tax and other incentives to encourage increased commitment of business and labor;
 - “(2) a study of alternatives such as lifelong learning entitlement programs or educational vouchers designed to assist adults to undertake education or training in conjunction with, or in periods alternative to employment;
 - “(3) review of possible modifications to existing Federal and State student assistance programs necessary to increase their relevance to the lifelong learning needs of all adults;
 - “(4) the organization and design of funding for pre- and post-retirement training and education for the elderly; and
 - “(5) modifications to Federal and State manpower training, public employment, unemployment compensation, and similar funding programs so as to better facilitate lifelong education and training and retraining, for employment.
- “(b) After consultation with appropriate State agencies, the Assistant Secretary is authorized—
- “(1) to assist in the planning and assessment, to determine whether in each State there is an equitable distribution of lifelong learning services to all segments of the adult population;
 - “(2) to assist in assessing the appropriate roles for the Federal, State, and local governments, educational institutions and community organizations; and
 - “(3) to assist in considering alternative methods of financing and delivering lifelong learning opportunities, including—
 - “(A) identification of State agencies, institutions, and groups that plan and provide programs of lifelong learning;
 - “(B) determination of the extent to which programs are available geographically;
 - “(C) a description of demographic characteristics of the population served;
 - “(D) analysis of reasons for attendance in programs of lifelong learning; and
 - “(E) analysis of sources of funds for the conduct of lifelong learning programs, and the financial support of persons attending programs of lifelong learning.
- “(c) The Assistant Secretary is authorized, with respect to lifelong learning, to assess, evaluate the need for, demonstrate, and develop alternative methods to improve—
- “(1) research and development activities;
 - “(2) training and retraining people to become educators of adults;
 - “(3) development of curricula and delivery systems appropriate to the needs of any such programs;
 - “(4) development of techniques and systems for guidance and counseling of adults and for training and retraining of counselors;
 - “(5) development and dissemination of instructional materials appropriate to adults;

“(6) assessment of the educational needs and goals of older and retired persons and their unique contributions to lifelong learning programs;

“(7) use of employer and union tuition assistance and other educational programs, educational and cultural trust funds and other similar educational benefits resulting from collective bargaining agreements, and other private funds for the support of lifelong learning;

“(8) integration of public and private educational funds which encourage participation in lifelong learning, including support of guidance and counseling of workers in order that they can make best use of funds available to them for lifelong learning opportunities; and

“(9) coordination within communities among educators, employers, labor organizations, and other appropriate individuals and entities to assure that lifelong learning opportunities are designed to meet projected career and occupational needs of the community, after consideration of the availability of guidance and counseling, the availability of information regarding occupational and career opportunities, and the availability of appropriate educational and other resources to meet the career and occupational needs of the community.”

“(d) In carrying out the provisions of this section the Assistant Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements with, and to make grants to, appropriate State agencies, institutions of higher education, and public and private nonprofit organizations.

“(e) In carrying out the provisions of this section, the Assistant Secretary shall issue reports summarizing research and analysis conducted pursuant to this section, and shall develop the resources and capability to analyze and make recommendations regarding specific legislative or administrative proposals which may be considered by the President or by the Congress.

“REPORTS

“Sec. 134. The Assistant Secretary shall transmit to the President and to the Congress a report on such results from the activities conducted pursuant to this part as may be completed by January 1, 1978, together with such legislative recommendations as he may deem appropriate. The Assistant Secretary shall similarly report annually thereafter.”

PART D—OUTDOOR LEARNING ASSISTANCE AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND RESEARCH

EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION

“Sec. 106. The first sentence of section 901 (b) of the Act is amended by striking out all that follows ‘authorized’ and inserting in lieu thereof ‘\$110,000,000 for fiscal year 1977, \$115,000,000 for fiscal year 1978, and \$120,000,000 for fiscal year 1979.’”

Transmitted to President and Congress. 20 USC 1015c. 20 USC 1021.